

**CLAIMS**

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A process for managing business, technical and operational data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet comprising the steps of:
  - 4 providing a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a registered user or not;
  - 7 determining whether a guest is a registered user from input by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web userid/password that enables them to register for any of global procurement applications available under the supplier portal;
  - 12 when a guest obtains a Web userid/password in GR, storing guest information in a GR data store;
  - 14 determining whether any applications have been authorized for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted applications in a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle;
  - 18 accessing information from the GR data store to automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications get approved;
  - 21 determining whether approval is needed for a requested application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and
  - 24 storing links to all applications for which the guest is approved, these

25 links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home page which  
26 displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest has been  
27 registered and authorized.

1 2. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as  
2 recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

3 defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get  
4 authorized to access an application;

5 logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's  
6 usereid/password once for each session, as long as applications requested by  
7 the guest are in a same realm; and

8 invoking by a logged in guest any of their approved applications by  
9 simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized  
10 home page.

1 3. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as  
2 recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are customizable for each  
3 application.

1 4. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as  
2 recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are defined for a section of an  
3 application, providing a finer level of access control.

1 5. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as  
2 recited in claim 2, wherein application specific registration fields are defined  
3 so that a registration form, unique to an application, is displayed when a user  
4 requests access to an application.

1       6. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as  
2       recited in claim 2, wherein guests may bookmark applications for later access,  
3       further comprising the step of prompting by an application a guest to enter  
4       their userid/password for authentication against data stored in the GR data  
5       store when the application is accessed using a bookmark.

1       7. A data processing system for managing business, technical and operational  
2       data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the  
3       Internet comprising:

4              a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical  
5              User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a  
6              registered user or not;

7              means for determining whether a guest is a registered user from input  
8       by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select  
9       “Register” to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web  
10      userid/password that enables them to register for any of global procurement  
11      applications available under the supplier portal;

12         a GR data store storing guest information when a guest obtains a Web  
13      userid/password;

14         a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a  
15      PCR data store throughout an application’s approval cycle;

16         means for determining whether any applications have been authorized  
17       for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted  
18       applications in the PCR;

19         means for accessing information from the GR data store to  
20       automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page  
21       being modified and updated as the guest’s requests for access to applications  
22       get approved;

23         means for determining whether approval is needed for a requested

24 application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application  
25 administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and  
26 means for storing links to all applications for which the guest is  
27 approved, these links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home  
28 page which displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest  
29 has been registered and authorized.